

REMARKS

Claims 13-30 are pending in this application. By the Office Action, claims 25-30 are withdrawn from consideration; claims 13, 15, 18, 19, 21, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e); claims 14 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a); and claims 16-17 and 22-23 are objected to. By this Amendment, claims 13 and 19 are amended; claims 31-38 are added; and claims 16-17, 22-23, and 25-30 are canceled. No new matter is added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 16-17 and 22-23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are otherwise allowable. By this Amendment, claim 13 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 16; new claim 31 is added to incorporate the subject matter of claims 13 and 17; new claims 32-34 correspond to the subject matter of claims 14-15 and 18, but dependent on new claim 31; claim 19 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 22; new claim 35 is added to incorporate the subject matter of claims 19 and 23; and new claims 36-38 correspond to the subject matter of claims 21-21 and 24, but dependent on new claim 35.

I. Restriction Requirement

Claims 25-30 are withdrawn from consideration as subject to a Restriction Requirement. Claims 25-30 are canceled herein.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

claims 13, 15, 18, 19, 21, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by US 6,853,425.

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection, in the interest of advancing prosecution the claims are amended to incorporate allowable subject matter. Accordingly the rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 14 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over US 6,853,425 in view of 20040048950.

Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the rejection, in the interest of advancing prosecution the claims are amended to incorporate allowable subject matter. Accordingly the rejection is overcome and should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Joel S. Armstrong
Registration No. 36,430

JAO:JSA:amw

Date: October 27, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--